

the inspector general of the Department of Agriculture. We are both convinced that this toughened penalty is absolutely necessary to discourage trafficking, and close down what amounts to a nearly no-fault avenue to criminal success now present in the system.

Second, we allow the Secretary of Agriculture to require that owners of food stores certified to exchange food stamps submit a valid business license. The intent of this section is to verify that persons in the food stamp networks are actual retailers, and not criminal fronts set-up primarily to illegally launder the stamps.

Third, the bill requires periodic reporting by certified stores to ensure that they are indeed in a bona fide business, and are not merely fronts for laundering. This can be accomplished in a user-friendly way by requesting copies of Federal tax forms which delineate volume and scope of business activity.

Again, the inspector general has argued that this verification procedure is crucial to the program's sound and honest functioning, and I believe my bill creates a system that will be relatively easy and inexpensive for retailers certified for food stamp business.

Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward with the welfare reform debate, the holes in system integrity must be closed. Effective welfare reform must be built on a strong foundation in order to guarantee taxpayer support and ensure that resources go not to the crooks but to the people who are most in need.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today considering H.R. 872. This legislation responds to the concerns of the American people. We on this side of the aisle listen to the American people in many ways. We listen and we learn, and we are trying to respond to their concerns.

The American people want to restore and revitalize our national security. They are outraged when they find that we have no defense against ballistic missiles, which could do irreparable harm to them and their loved ones in our country.

They cannot understand why we do not have a national missile defense. They want to know who is responsible. We are trying to respond to those concerns and tell them who is responsible, and we will try to fix this. They do not want and do not deserve to be unprotected and naked to something that could destroy all their lives.

I understand that our liberal friends on the other side of the aisle have a real problem with what we are about. Because we are trying to protect the American people, it is difficult for them not to join in with us. So they have to resort to all kind of tactics.

I have always been amazed at the liberal mind, what it can conjure up with a limited vocabulary and fantasize, turn night into day and day into night, wrong into right, right into wrong by using words and smoke screens.

They would have you believe, for instance, that what we are doing is harmful to national security. People who have dedicated their lives to tearing down our national security are now telling us that what we are doing is harmful to national security.

A while ago, I went down in the well, I was sitting back in the back of the Chamber, because down home we have got a saying that "when people say outrageous things, don't stand too close to them because lightning might strike." I don't want to be too close when it strikes.

Mr. Chairman, we are about doing our duty to protect the American people and we are going to do it. We want our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, liberal as they might be, and how they play their game, I do not care. We want their help in protecting the American people. We want them to join us. If they do not want to do it, that is their problem. We are going to do it, anyway. And it is going to be done here on this floor.

#### WASHINGTON MONUMENT FLAGS OF THE STATES ACT

**HON. PAT WILLIAMS**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to assist in the observation of the Washington Monument's 110th anniversary. My legislation would ring the Washington Monument with the flags of each of our 50 States. This was the original intent of the planners of the Mall and I believe an appropriate way of demonstrating our unique Federal and State partnership.

All Americans are rightfully proud of the beauty and symbolism of the Nation's Capital and its national monuments. The designers of our Capital City, from L'Enfant since, have sought not only to present our national monuments but also to present with them expression of American ideals. For example, as one stands in the Jefferson Memorial one has an unobstructed view of the White House. This symbolizes that Jefferson is considered to have given the Presidency the context it has held since his time. As one stands at the feet of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial, one can see the U.S. Capitol, as a symbol of the necessary linkage of the executive with the legislative branch of Government.

The Capitol grounds are rich with this type of symbolism, adding to each American's understanding.

I have noted that the flags of our 50 States are not exhibited together anywhere within the Capitol or monument grounds. Around the base of the Washington Monument, one finds 50 flag poles. However, the poles, not inappropriately, fly American flags. Flying State flags would provide the symbolism of the co-

operation between and among the various States and the Federal Government.

Americans owe our stability and strength to our system of government—a system that clearly established a constant dynamic between local and Federal jurisdiction. It is the defining and reexamining of these basic strengths which provides the appropriate tension to our system. The foundation of our Democracy is in the understanding that folks from Butte, MT to Charlottesville, VA, from Hillsboro, OR to Greenville, MS sustain a common bond: Through the orderliness of representative government they can truly determine their own destiny; and that of their country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Washington Monument by having the flags of their States flown at the base of the monument to America's first President.

#### MIDDLE-CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the cochairs of the Tourism Caucus, Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. ROTH, to introduce legislation based on a commitment to fairness for the working people of this Nation and a sense of the profound need for job creation. Specifically, this legislation would restore a 100-percent deduction for business meals and entertainment [M&E] and the spousal travel deduction.

The decision to cut the M&E deduction and the spousal travel deduction is one of those fair-sounding ideas that can have unintended and undesirable consequences.

Travel, tourism and entertainment constitute the third-largest industry in the United States. Its 1990 payroll was \$83 billion and it is an industry that employs 6 million people. This is an industry whose growth Washington should support and promote.

The next time you are eating lunch in a restaurant, take a look around at the business types. Here's what you probably won't see: the stereotype of obscenely rich tycoons sipping three-martini lunches. What you will see are sober, serious middle-class people doing business the American way: in face-to-face meetings.

Meetings are a legitimate cost of doing business. And until 1986, the cost was fully tax-deductible. At that time, the deduction was reduced to 80 percent. The effect that has on a business may be as simple as making phone calls instead of airline flights. Yet, the ramifications are enormous.

After all, when business takes its act on the road, there's a big supporting cast: airline pilots, mechanics, luggage handlers, flight attendants, waiters, waitresses, cooks and restaurant owners, food service companies and truck drivers, convention caterers and service employees, and hotel bell captains and reception clerks.

They're all middle-class working people. The people who have been victims of misguided economic policy since the 1980's.